

ARE YOU RAISING MOSQUITOES IN YOUR BACKYARD?

Submitted by Orchard Nursery, Lafayette

It's never too late to take a look around your home and garden for standing water. West Nile Virus is still a concern where we live and we can all be good neighbors by making sure we're part of the solution. Most folks are amazed at what they find when they actually go outside and take a good look.

We tend to forget about things we tucked in on the side of the garage last winter, or gardening clogs or a wheelbarrow that we left behind the shed or a water bowl for Fido that fell behind the dog house. Here is a check list of places to look:

- Ponds, fountains, birdbaths
- Swimming Pools, spas
- Plastic Wading Pools
- Boats
- Animal Watering Bowls & Troughs
- All Kinds of Empty Containers
- Other Standing Water

Mosquito Facts:

- All mosquitoes must have water to complete their life cycle.
- Only seven days are required to complete their life cycle (egg to adult) during warm weather.
- Mosquitoes do not develop in grass or shrubbery.
- Only female mosquitoes bite to obtain blood.
- Male mosquitoes feed only on plant juices.
- Female mosquitoes may live as long as three weeks during summer or many months over winter in order to lay eggs

in spring.

According to the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District, the owner of a piece of property on which a breeding source is located, is responsible for the abatement and prevention of its recurrence. The District can inform owners of mosquito breeding and assist them in working out a



satisfactory correction. In extreme cases, where the owner does not accept responsibility to the public, the nuisance may be abated and a lien filed against the property as provided by the California State Health and Safety Code.

The good news is that mosquito fish, *Gambusia affinis*, are indispensable to mosquito control programs. They eat mosquito larvae as fast as they hatch. You can get mosquito fish for free from the Vector Control Office. Use them for stocking ponds, fountains, unused or out-of-order swimming pools, and animal water troughs. They require no feeding and all you have to do is protect them from garden sprays, chlorine or other chemicals used to clean the pond. The District stocks thousands of these fish in artificial lakes, reservoirs, waste water disposal lagoons, natural creeks, and drainage channels to eliminate the need for frequent spraying with an insecticide.

So, be a good neighbor and take a stroll through your garden today!

Visit with representatives from Contra Costa Mosquito Vector Control:

Saturday, July 21st, 11-1 pm. Orchard Nursery & Florist,
4010 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette; 925-284-4474

Or you can contact them:

Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District

155 Mason Circle; Concord,

CA 94520; (925) 685-9301

E-mail: ccmvcd@ccmvcd.net

Information from the

CCMVCD handout entitled

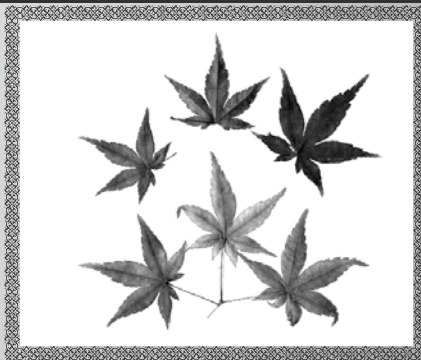
"Are You Raising Mosquitoes in Your Backyard?"



Koi swim happily in the pond

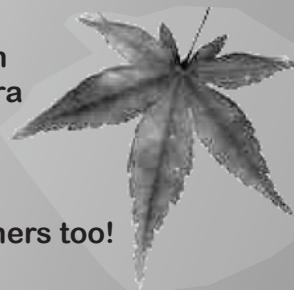


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